

# THE ASYLUM

*Quarterly Journal of the Numismatic Bibliomania Society*

Volume XVI, No. 4

Fall, 1998

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ROBERT BURTON

1577-1640

“I no sooner come into the library, but I bolt the door, excluding lust, ambition, avarice ... in the lap of eternity amongst so many divine souls, I take my seat with so lofty a spirit and sweet content that I pity all our great ones and rich men who know not this happiness.”



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Pittsburgh, PA 15206

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Cincinnati, OH 45232

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Joel Orosz, 4300 Old Field Trail, Kalamazoo, MI 49008  
Scott Rubin, P. O. Box 6885, Lawrenceville, NJ 08648  
Pete Smith, 2424 4th St. NE, #12, Minneapolis, MN 55418  
Frank Van Zandt, 6032 Van Zandt Road, Livonia, NY 14487

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## THE ASYLUM

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Editor: George F. Kolbe

New Publication Editor: Marilyn Reback, P. O. Box 1110, Monument, CO 80132

New Editor-in-Chief: Bob Metzger, P. O. Box 307, Lakeville, MN 55044-0307

### Advertising Rates

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*The Asylum* is published quarterly. Submissions sent to the new Publication Editor should be typed, double-spaced, on 8.5 x 11 inch paper, and accompanied by a hard copy. Submissions on 3.5-inch disk, MAC or IBM, should be in ASCII format, no carriage returns (a hard copy *must* accompany the disk). Authors must include their name, address and phone(and fax) numbers.

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**N. B. S. Membership:** \$15.00 annual dues in North America, \$20.00 elsewhere. Members receive all issues of the current volume. Requests for membership should be submitted to the Secretary-Treasurer.

## President's Message

I am happy to report that Numismatic Bibliomania Society members voted 60 to 1 to adopt the revised NBS Constitution and By-Laws printed in the last issue of *The Asylum*, effective October 24, 1998.

This final issue of *The Asylum* for 1998 brings with it many important club updates, news, and changes. Most important is a change in editorship starting in 1999. George Kolbe assumed the reins for the second time as editor of our struggling publication in 1996. Having been at the helm for the last three years, our beloved editor's combination of compelling business and personal responsibilities has required him to pass the baton to our ninth editors: Marilyn Reback and Bob Metzger. Ms. Reback assumes the roll of publication editor. You may be familiar with Ms. Reback's other work as assistant editor of *The Numismatist* and as new editor of *Paper Money*. Ms. Reback will be responsible for receiving your articles, editing, correspondence with advertisers, and other duties agreed by the board to ensure continued timely amalgamation into a professional publication.

Bob Metzger, a fellow NBS member, assumes the role of editor-in-chief (EIC). Since he has actively participated in NBS for a number of years, the board concluded he would be an invaluable conduit between the organization and Ms. Reback, to solicit articles and contributions to our publication, to work with the editor regarding content, and lastly to serve as a non-voting member of the board of directors consistent with our Constitution and By-Laws. I personally thank George Kolbe for the outstanding contribution he has made to *The Asylum* and NBS. He will be continuing his contribution to NBS as a valued member of the board of directors. Let's all welcome and support Ms. Reback and Mr. Metzger in their respective new roles.

The board of directors continues to meet on a quarterly basis, resulting in several actions and decisions, a summary of which follows:

### ADVERTISING IN NBS PUBLICATIONS OR THE NBS WEB SITE

The board affirmed that only NBS members or companies in which a principal owner is a member may advertise in NBS publications or the NBS Web Site. Advertising rates for *The Asylum* are printed in the publication.

Effective January 1999, advertising will be permitted on the NBS Web Site. Ads will be run for 6 consecutive months for a fee per one-fifth page of \$40 or \$65 for the first and second ad positions. One ad change per 6 month contract term will be allowed. The 6 month advertising fee is payable in advance. For information on placing a NBS Web Site ad, please contact Wayne Homren.

## E-MAIL SUBSCRIBER NEWSLETTER

I've received several inquiries regarding the NBS E-Mail Subscriber Newsletter issued by Mr. Wayne Homren. In summary, the intent of this electronic newsletter is to promote NBS and provide educational information. Since the newsletter recipients are not required to be NBS members, the newsletter will be edited to exclude inappropriate information. For example, we will not feel compelled to share information regarding auctions or other commercial ventures for non-members. Hopefully we can transition some of the electronic newsletter subscribers to full fledged members of NBS over a period of time.

## NBS 1999 - AN OVERVIEW

- *March 1999*: The next Issue of *The Asylum* and Call for Nominations for New Officers and Board Members.
- *June 1999*: Pre-ANA Convention *Asylum* issue and NBS Elections
- *August 1999*: ANA Convention in Chicago. Competitive Exhibits in the Literature Category need to be in place between 10 AM on the 10th and 11 AM on the 11th. Our club meeting and education forum will be held Friday, August 13th from 6:30 - 8 PM.
- *September 1999*: The third issue of *The Asylum* will be published.
- *December 1999*: The fourth issue of *The Asylum* will be published.

On a personal note, this concludes my 15th year collecting numismatic literature from a fledgling beginning in both Cal Wilson and George Kolbe's fall/winter 1983 auctions in which I was unsuccessful. It might have been a slow start, but 15 years later the floors in my house need to be reinforced. This is a great hobby for the cognoscenti.

## New NBS Members

The following persons are now members of the Numismatic Bibliomania Society, approved by the board per our revised By-Laws: Stephen James, David Davis, Harry Cabluck, Jim Stofle, Lee Surface.

## ASYLUM BACK ISSUES NEEDED

Pursuant to the recent decision of the Board to supply photocopies of unavailable back issues of *The Asylum*, the following numbers are needed for copying purposes: Vol. 1, all; Vol. 2, Nos. 3 & 4; Vol. 4, No. 2; Vol. 10, Nos. 2, 3 & 4; Vol. 12, No. 1. Funds are available for purchase, due to the generosity of a new member, or the needed issues may be donated.

David Hirt, *Secretary-Treasurer*



## Some *Random* Numismatic Reminiscences - Part 3 of 3

### Randolph Zander

King Farouk was lucky to be let out of Egypt alive after Gen. Naguib's 1953 coup. Of the surfeit of chattels he left behind, only the coins, medals and banknotes concern us. The Government turned to Sotheby's to auction these in Cairo as soon as possible. To do the actual cataloguing Sotheby's engaged Fred Baldwin, the managing director of the Baldwin firm and a vastly experienced numismatist. The result was an inch-thick catalogue for the sale which lasted over 10 days in February-March, 1954.

King Farouk's immense collection was mostly post-1800. Excluding withdrawn items, mainly Egyptian, there were some 8,500 gold pieces, roughly 50,000 silver and copper pieces, some 6,000 banknotes plus almost 25,000 German and other notgeld notes. Patterns, novodels, rarities, off-metal and unpublished pieces were in abundance. There was a salting of often comically misrepresented items that had been foisted off on the impressionable monarch, along with a few forgeries. Max Mehl had charmed the King, whose normal perspective focused on Europe and the Levant, into forming, *inter alia*, one of the finest extant U. S. collections, furnished largely by himself.

The Russian element was comparatively weak – over 300 gold and platinum items, and somewhat over 1000 silver and copper coins and medals, plus an album with close to a thousand wartime and civil war notes. Predictably, I was attracted above all to a group of about 500 copper coins, sure to include novodels and rarities. Though this lot fetched only £(Egyptian) 40, I lost it; Albert Baldwin, in this case too conscientious an agent, let it go, he said, because the coins had been cleaned.

This was in fact a peculiarity of a great many of King Farouk's minor coins – mainly copper – that would be thought susceptible to tarnish or toning. These were commonly polished with jewelers' rouge and then generously lacquered. Farouk's gold and most of his major silver coins escaped the indignity. For example, one lot I bought had nickel 1863, 1871 and 1911 patterns (mostly lacquered). Kuchler 1804 silver-gilt die trails (untouched) and a Moldavian presentation silver two-para piece (also left free).

Among the forgeries not described as such were two egregious Russian specimens – a forged 1725 copper plate ruble and a matching 1726 square Poltina. These made £E45 and £E40 respectively – a tip-off that they were bad. The buyer was Howard Gibbs, one of the shrewdest collectors of his generation.<sup>15</sup>

Uncle Fred Baldwin, reinforced later by Albert Baldwin, did a heroic job of preparing the material for auction. The Egyptian Government was

prodding and impatient, work surroundings were atrocious, obtrusive armed guards got in the way, decent photography was impossible. Quite a few important items' imperfect descriptions had to be put right. The sheer volume was overwhelming, errors crept in, everything had to be shoe-horned into one catalogue, all the while doing as little injustice as possible to pieces of capital importance.

Just about everyone would have been better served – the Government, most interested people in the 1954 numismatic community and the generations of numismatists who have followed – if the Egyptians had taken the expert's advice. Of course for a single auction there were far too many good things, too jammed together, for any conspiratorially-minded bidders to organize a buying syndicate for any specific category, but the surfeit achieved the same effect of producing unrealistically depressed prices most of the time. Of the attendees, the few with the deepest pockets came away happiest – it was very much a dealers' sale.



John Gartner's Hawthorne Press of Melbourne produced some of the most tasteful editions of these years. Collectors know him better as one of the foremost philatelists alive and as almost as important a numismatist. He and I were of an age, give or take a year or two. He published, on a pro bono basis, numismatic works, such as Selwyn Mort's 1959 book on Hapsburg mints and mint-marks (the poor man's Miller zu Aichholz), a worthy resurrection of Sydney Eastwood's Pittsburgh "occasional numismatic pamphlet" *Numisma* of the 1940s, and a definitive catalogue of communion tokens of the Antipodes and other far places where overseas Scots congregated.

Close to 40 years ago John Gartner and I went halves on the purchase of quite a good collection of coins from a Russian refugee. The owner had managed to bring the collection intact to Australia through a hair-raising slow-motion post WWII evacuation of a body of Harbin Russians via Shanghai and the Philippines. Details of the collection now escape me. Years ago, John gave me some rare items to offer through one of my mail auctions, and through me he repatriated some equally rare Canadian coins which ended in the Bank of Canada's collection.



Peter Landry is a retired professor at McGill University and an accomplished and much travelled ornithologist. He built a first-rate collection of Russian coins, especially pre-Petrine, and had at one time a Russian nu-

mismatic library that ranked among the best in North America. The coins are sold now – most of the post-1700 ones years ago through my lists, the wire money later through private treaty in an easy harmony between him and Gleb Budzilovich, Anders Berglund and Gerry Anaszewicz.<sup>16</sup>

With the books the story is more complicated. Peter would have preferred to sell them as a group. The ideal solution might have been for an American Numismatic Society angel to put up the money, let the ANS library keep the considerable number it needed and then convert the remainder into money for the library fund. In the event, the books were put in the hands of Douglas Saville at Spink's, he found no ready single buyer, so he consigned them to Sotheby's, who sold them at auction in November, 1981.

It was the largest offering of Russian numismatic books since the mid-30s, when Mezhnika and the Four Continents Book Store on Lower Fifth Avenue were advertising an extraordinary array of numismatic and other scholarly material at rock-bottom prices, even for those days of financial stringency – Gornung's album of Petrine coins for \$4, the three volume Chaudoir set or Chertkov plus supplements for \$5 for either set, Tolstoi on the early Kievan coinage for \$7.50, GM corpus volumes in original paper binding, including Peter I (!), any one of the twelve for \$5 &c.

Peter Landry got his books chiefly from two sources. The first was a Montreal neighbor – an elderly Russian emigre named Vasiliev, a man who could show the shrewdest Yankee trader a thing or two. His son was an international airline pilot who was able sometimes to bring home interesting things. The other was a Mr. Davies, a Montreal dealer in scarce Russian books on the arts and on archeology in a broad sense. Many of his books carried bookplates of celebrated Russian collectors and savants. Davies died some years ago. I believe he supplied Vasiliev with a good deal of his material. He was still a first-rate source when I learned of him, years later.

It was not immediately evident that Davies served, perfectly legally in Canada, as a sort of Soviet cut-out for unobtrusively channeling American scientific and scholarly books and periodicals to Moscow on a large scale. His Russian principal furnished him working capital plus commission partly in Russian literature for him to sell. Evidently this wasn't always easy, Davies repeatedly begged me to find him names who might buy Russian coffee-table art books. The Royal Canadian Mounted Police surely knew all about him.

I remember one grotesque case: Davies sold me a set of the French edition of the GM corpus, unbound. He sent them in a beat up suitcase carried by a French-Canadian hippie. I was told to meet the carrier in the Washington National Airport, take the 18" stack of loose pages and hand the man \$500.00 in cash – all vintage le Carre style. Ira Rezak, who had more experience of Davies than I, tells me Davies often used this delivery method.



My first encounter with Vasiliev was unproductive for us both. He received me with a hospitable layout of zakuski and Stolichnaya for softeners, a splendid display of folio volumes on the Romanov tercentenary and the like, and an anemic exhibit of routine Russian coins. Peter Landry had innocently given Vasiliev a false lead. Vasiliev eventually brought out some 18th century Russian gold at asking prices half or a quarter higher than prevailing retail. I think I failed him, not realizing he was looking forward to a long evening of exhilarating vodka-driven haggling. Later on we got to know each other better and did some useful book business.



Some places take on for a time a numismatic significance way out of proportion to their size. It needs only a handful of the right people to make the difference. Such was the case with a gifted cadre of collectors interested in foreign coins in Oklahoma City around the 50s and 60s.

P. K. Anderson, Dr. John Lhotka, Jake Sureck and John Dunn constituted the critical mass. P. K., an amiable Quaker bachelor, as a petroleum engineer had spent decades prospecting in Latin America. P. K. sought out entire hoards of old silver; some he bought for bullion value plus as little as 10%, others he cherry-picked if the holders were stubborn. This was before the rash of recoveries from sunken ships, hence P. K.'s coins showed no sea-water corrosion. He bought home an amazing booty of colonial silver which he massively supplemented with judicious buys in the U. S. and Europe. At one time or another, he and I bought, sold and traded a fair volume of his sort of material.

P. K.'s collection had become one of the two or three best of its kind in our hemisphere at the time he bequeathed it to the ANS. With the Hispanic silver went his equally remarkable collection of Oklahoma store cards. From that stricken state, in the 30s devastated by the dust storms, it seemed as if half the Okies in some parts had pulled up stakes and headed west. Dozens of towns vanished, and the trade tokens of their general stores were often the sole witness of what had lately been a populated place.

P. K. was ANA president in the early 60s – not a happy period for him, who was a collector, not a fraternal-order numismatist. Wrestling with his cantankerous governors bored him. He published articles, he was outstandingly generous with researchers seeking help, and till he died in 1968 he was the first among equals in the Oklahoma City numismatic junta I have spoken of.

P. K. had a sly habit of offering to hand a visitor a beat-up 50-reales cincuentina he kept ready, he adroitly fumbled so it fell to the floor, leaving the horrified visitor with the impression it was he who had dropped the

heavy coin. P. K. wrote most of his letters on a letterhead with ANDERSON'S HALF-HACIENDA, and in Quaker style he signed "Cheerfully thine."

Dr. John Lhotka, a professor at the Oklahoma City Teaching Hospital, was well known as a medieval specialist. *The Numismatist* carried articles of his, some in collaboration with P. K. Anderson. He and his wife were of Czech extraction – she a radiantly beautiful Slavic blonde well into middle age. John's knowledge, lightly carried, and his good nature, endeared him, and he played his worthy part in the Oklahoma City numismatic junta.

Jake B. Sureck, the eldest of a family of uniformly successful children, was born in Lithuania. We met in Washington in 1944 where we both were on active duty. Jake was a partner in a prominent Oklahoma City accounting firm. He was a perfect example of the American melting pot's marvelous – now unfashionable – alchemy. Nobody could dream that this tall, weatherbeaten cowboy with the loping walk and the Southwestern twang was anything but a domestic product.

For years it was Jake's thankless, self-imposed task to put right ANA's sometimes unprofessional accounting, a valuable service that was not always appreciated. Jake toyed with the thought of running for ANA office, he would have had eager and wide support, but nothing came of it. Jake assembled in the 40s to the 60s a fine crown collection which I handled for him later. He often put me in touch with neighbors who had foreign material to dispose of. Stack's auctioned his extensive U. S. holdings. Jake's collection of Oklahoma national bank notes, his favorite and the work of years, must have been the best in the country. Like P. K.'s store cards, the notes of some ephemeral small town bank were sometimes the place's main archeological trace. One of Jake's notes was signed by its young cashier in blue-black ink that had faded badly. Jake knew the man, by then long retired, he brought him the bill and had him write his name again – freshening up his signature.

John Dunn was a professor and publicist at the University. Jake, I think, led him into collecting crowns. He had the enthusiasm of a late comer. John and a local dealer named Brown compiled the Brown & Dunn condition guide. Before the days of ANACS with its point system Brown & Dunn had been a popular reference. John laid on the occasional numismatic conferences that the group sponsored.



Billy Coe was one of the aristocrats of the proud Postal Service of earlier times. He travelled the night railway mail car between Washington and New York and back. He lived with his mother in a high-ceilinged old apartment near the center of the capital. He had bought from me for years –

choice minor pieces mainly. He was in a way a lesser Eklund. About 25 years ago Billy took the decision to sacrifice his coins to buy a house in the suburbs. He did so philosophically, without noticeable regrets.

Billy knew the postal geography of his route in incredible detail – thousands of office buildings, apartment houses, local and federal government buildings, military addresses, hospitals, local post offices, etc. of each local stop along the 240 miles. He carried with him prayer cards he was always making to memorize changes. His schedule gave him enough free hours in New York so that after a long nap he was ready to haunt the dealers – Coin Galleries, Hans Schulman and Henry Christensen mainly. The precision of trained memory in his work served him well in choosing coins – he seems never to have bought a duplicate.

The post WWII days were a golden time to scoop up all sorts of choice material of the lesser sort as well as crowns and gold. Billy's fastidious taste about condition was no hindrance, given the availability. From among something like 3000 choice pieces that he ended with there was a tolerable Russian presence – at a guess about a couple of hundred or so. I can remember nothing truly rare, but there were quite a few coins that in fact were rare in the top shape he habitually insisted on.

For pure esthetic delight the Coe coins were an unalloyed pleasure. And I suppose, coin for coin they must since have appreciated in value more spectacularly than some more expensive items, after the fashion of *good* Canadian penny mining stocks, if there is such a thing.



Henry Grunthal's direct association, starting around 1950, with the ANS provided that he might continue, on a discreet basis, some activity as a sort of dealers' dealer – a sensible arrangement to both parties' advantage. One example was in 1955 his placing among dealers of the huge accumulation of choice gold and crowns belonging to a Mr. de Coppet, a prominent dealer in odd lots on Wall Street. Almost everyone except Wayne Raymond bought some of the coins, he showed no interest, reportedly dismissing the material as "sucker bait." Jim Kelly's scout reportedly bought from the de Coppet hoard an incredible 400 pre-1804 U. S. "daddy dollars."<sup>17</sup> At the lower end of the scale, I scraped together everything I could in order to take, in installments, close to a couple of thousand miscellaneous European crowns and some republican doubloons and 17th century English gold.

Among what I saw, there seemed to be no Latin American pesos and very few Russian rubles. De Coppet's catholic taste could certainly not have excluded such coins. I'm inclined to believe that Henry Christensen, who had gone into the coin business not long before, was building up stock and



eagerly took the Latinos, to which he was partial. As for the Russians, it is possible that Henry had made up a batch of these for Andy Kelpsh in Florida – a good friend of his who, as a side-line, ran a dealership in crowns and specially appreciated Russian coins. Seventeen years later Kelpsh's widow consigned his ruble collection, including the Reichel Constantine ruble as well as a selection of pre-Petrine wire money, to Abner Kreisberg and Jerry Cohen for auction.



Bill Woodside was a many-sided man, sure of how to devote his life. He came of an influential Pittsburgh family, he went to Harvard, but instead of joining an establishment bank or law firm he chose to become an accomplished dilettante. He was peripherally involved in the renaissance of Central Pittsburgh. He was a prominent Presbyterian layman, he had a deep and scholarly familiarity with Scottish and Western-Pennsylvania history. He studied and formed a fine cabinet of coins and tokens – pieces of the Stuart monarchs mainly (including such succulent items as a gun money half-crown in gold), and communion tokens. Bill published a number of works and articles, chiefly on communion tokens and plantation chits, including Grieg, Robinson & Woodside on Australian, New Zealand and Miscellaneous series [of communion tokens], as put out by John Gartner's Hawthorne Press in Melbourne.

Bill's most important work was setting up and nurturing the coin cabinet of the Carnegie Institute's Museum. It should have been his most enduring contribution. He secured many important donations, a number of them on the premise that they were to stay with the Museum in perpetuity. He drew together a small group of volunteer staffers who worked zealously with him to put the rich and very varied material in perfect order. Bill was not robust, but he never spared himself, and late in middle age he developed the Pittsburgher's common affliction of emphysema. During Bill's final illness, the Carnegie people decided to deaccession the coin collection; and devote the money to its main interest in the natural sciences. The timing was too bad, perhaps by accident – it seemed like kicking a man when he's down. The development devastated Bill and he died not long afterward (the ultimate outcome took time and litigation to hammer out. The Museum's initial plan, more's the pity, was essentially sustained).

Through Bill I bought the fine library and a large segment of the coins and tokens of Verner Scaife, a passionate collector who, among his varied interests, gave a priority to British colonial coins and tokens within the general parameters of Fred Pridmore's research. Once unexpectedly from Bill I had half a dozen very nice 1710 and 1712 rubles, obviously liberated



by some soldier. Bill gave me some silver of Charles I of his to sell, but for the most part our relation was numismatically platonic.



Ray Byrne was a third generation Pittsburgh undertaker, outstandingly skilled in cosmetic reconstruction; he was a broadly committed civic activist as well as a numismatist who was extremely active in organizational affairs without prejudice to the sustained study and intensive collecting of south-of-the-border coins and tokens. Later he focused solely on the infinitely challenging West-Indian series. It was at this shift of specialty that Ray sold me a fine range of his mainland Hispanic pieces.

It was no secret that Ray's overreaching interest was numismatics. His widowed mother, a formidable matriarch, held him to the family business, but not long after her death he sold the firm, along with the cavernous Victorian house. Then he and Marge took themselves, large brood, coins and books to Florida. Ever the man people turned to in order to get things done, he got elected right away to be head of his condominium board.

Ray had been silently conducting a resolute delaying action against cancer for many years, never until far along letting it curtail his full life. Few of us – certainly not I – understood how gravely burdensome this was: I remember before his last Christmas he phoned me for what seemed like an offhand seasonal tour d'horizon; it was not till later that I realized this was Ray's touching farewell

Ray must have written a good three dozen articles on his subject, he spoke and exhibited often, and when he consigned his "Caribbees" to Jess Peters to auction in 1975, he worked meticulously to achieve what he hoped would be a definitive catalogue and something of a memorial to himself. The catalogue ran to over 1500 numbers, the photography was exceptional (Ray was a first rate man with the close-up camera), the text struck me, admittedly no expert in the field, as of high order. Some 25 pieces were withdrawn – not bad out of 1500 for a subject bristling with ambiguities and uncertainties.

Ray often spoke with respect of Fred Pridmore, in his day the ultimate authority on the coins of the British West Indies (among numerous other series). Pridmore gave Peter Mitchell (whom he designated to catalogue his collection for auction) to understand that Ray was a bit stand-offish with him – a disturbing dissonance in what I had always thought of as a singularly productive relationship.

Ray Byrne was what can be described as a joyous collector. He enjoyed his subject, he certainly enjoyed numismatic company; he founded the Pittsburgh Sphinx club – a meeting of serious coin people [even if you called

them sphincters], he gave a party at the ANA convention every year for the "ladies of the ANA," in those days headed by the legendary trio of Margo Russell, Virginia Culver and Eva Adams [of whom Margo long served till recently on the ANS Board]. Ray was shrewd but certainly never offensively so, he did his homework conscientiously, his heart was in the right place, and his memory wears well.



Leonid Södermann was a Helsinki collector-dealer specializing in Russian coins – much more collector than dealer. His collection and stock together may well have amounted to the finest assemblage of Russian coins outside the Hermitage. I met him only once, at the IAPN meeting in New York in 1964 when he was still a member and I was a guest. He was a stocky, self-contained man of middle height, with a pale Baltic eye. He traded me then a portrait pattern ruble of Alexander I for a set of 1911 patterns from the Farouk sale – much to his advantage of course, but I was happy nonetheless.

A little later he got in trouble with his Government. It was said that some of his fabulous collection of Russian coins he had acquired at the jeopardy of his country's security. He was detained briefly, then to avoid provocation he was quietly invited to leave Finland with his family and his partly soiled coins. He dropped out of the IAPN. He lived his last years quietly, shunned by many, and died in Switzerland.

His vast collection is largely dissipated, there was a notable gold series auctioned in 1968, some parts went by private treaty. The family must still hold elements, copper especially – the details are veiled.



The last big buy I made was in 1972. An invitation came in the mail from the executor (and cousin) of Carl O. Schwab to bid on his collection of some 6000 crowns. The collector had been an old customer for a quarter of a century, though he had dropped out of sight a couple of years earlier.

I went out to Hamilton, Ohio, to have a look. The executor was a courtly gentleman and an amateur wine maker of almost professional skill. He got his grapes from around Erie, Pennsylvania and he turned out every year a barrel or two each of an excellent sauvignon and sauvignon cabernet, of which he and his lady were the chief consumers. Though no numismatist, he was a common-sensical lawyer and straight shooter. He told me something of his cousin's background. Like so many single-mindedly dedicated

collectors, he was a bachelor. He had made a modest blue-collar living as the distributor of Hamilton's local newspaper. His money went a long way in the halcyon 50s and 60s. He had collected U. S. coins as well as crowns, but some while back the U. S. collection had been burgled, he panicked and put his crowns away in the bank, and after that his interest had seemed to wane. Carl Schwab kept an accurate, in depth file of 5 x 8 cards; these gave him space for each coin's full vital statistics plus the pithy – sometime extended – observations on its source that Carl enjoyed often writing to himself. A favorite object for dissection was Hans Schulman. Much of this documentation went later to John Davenport.

The collection's center of gravity lay in the ±4000-piece European sector, a group of the first water. Accordingly I bid \$162,000 on these, and left aside the ±2000 Mex pesos<sup>18</sup> and associated Latin-American and Oriental dollars. Steve Eyer zeroed in on this element. The coins (plus a few medals) were expertly catalogued by a local man – Gaylord Nelson. If he could have raised the money he would have been an eager and competitive bidder. Half a dozen of us were in the bidding. One bidder solicitously phoned to warn me off the collection – I'd be a sucker to bid on a collection so full of flawed and dubious pieces, etc., etc. He had one bare scintilla of truth: Carl had begun to dip his coins and seal them in unstable plastic. Fortunately (for me as buyer) the burglary and move to the bank interrupted the program at an early stage.

Among the ±4000 coins there was a very good run of rubles. To improve condition I kept for myself a few, along with maybe 100 European pieces, most of them new to my collection. The rest buoyed up stock and helped keep me comfortably in crowns till I retired in 1975.

#### FOOTNOTES

<sup>15</sup> See elsewhere for a discussion of Gibb's apparent rationale for buying items for his odd-and-curious currency collection.

<sup>16</sup> Every big collection sold at auction presents *de rigueur* in the introduction the collector's prayer that later generations may enjoy his coins as much he did, etc., etc. Peter's choice of method for placing his early Russians achieved the result perfectly, with no wasted words.

<sup>17</sup> A little later Kelly offered some 125 such dollars in a spring auction.

<sup>18</sup> The large numbers of coins involved included of course, dates and mintmarks – a vast multiplier in the case of Mexican pesos and the like.





*The Printer's Devil ~ The 9th Annual Shammies Awards*  
Joel J. Orosz, NLG

Here we are, gentle readers, nearly a decade into the Shammies Awards, and still the ballyhoo meisters keep devising new and improved ways to hyperventilate in order to move merchandise. Once more, your columnist is the sole judge of these dubious marks of distinction, which honor excellence in the employment of hyperbole to increase sales. As in years past, a second section will celebrate bloopers by the less bloviating members of the dealer fraternity.

The "Dan Quayle's Potatoe" award goes to the *Forecaster*, for running this headline: "How Newest Economic Preditors (*sic*), Latest Political Moves, Or Procrastination May Change Your Life Forever!"

*Coin World (CW), November 18, 1996, p. 24.*

The "Uniquer by the Million" award goes to the United States Mint, for pushing its gift catalog thusly: "We wrote the book on unique gifts."

*Numismatic News (NN), October 21, 1997, p. 41.*

The "Don't Know Much About Geometry" award goes to Mt. Vernon Coin Company, for selling "1996 Silver Christmas Bars" with an illustration of a silver round.

*CW, November 18, 1996, p. 58.*

The "Unique—Except for a Dozen Others" award goes to Jay Parrino's The Mint, which headlined an ad for a 1927-D double eagle as "Yet another unique offering," and subheaded it as "irreplaceable," before admitting, in the agate print below, that there are other examples in existence. Judge's comment: Just how many others isn't clear, because at one point in the ad, Mr. Parrino states "one of fewer than 13 traced," while in another he says "out of the 13 specimens we can trace..."

*CW, January 6, 1997, p. 70.*

The "Special Award for Conspicuous Nincompoopery" goes to American Express Merchandise Services, for their catalog in conjunction with "The American Historic Society," that peddles such numismatic "treasures" as the "Indian head cent in a Zippo" (p. 40); the giant one pound silver proof "one hundred dollar bill" (the fine print tells us that there are over 30 square inches of .999 fine silver covering a solid copper core, p. 26); and this historical howler: pictured is an 1885-CC Morgan dollar in its General Services Administration holder, with the caption, "Still in its original packaging from the Carson City mint..."

*Spring 1997 American Express Merchandise Services mailing.*



The "Iridescent, Iridescenter, Iridescentest" award goes to Kingswood Coin Auctions, for using the word "iridescent" in eleven of twenty-four coin descriptions in a single ad. Judge's comment: Quoting the firm, this is redundant "per say" (*sic*).  
CW, May 26, 1997, pp. 35-37.

The "Not All That Glitters is a White Coin" award goes to perennial honoree David Hall, for shilling a 1910-S Barber half dollar. Hall's paradoxical description follows: "This coin is creamy, creamy white. There's a tinge of golden iridescent toning as proof of this coin's total originality." Judge's comment: To summarize, this coin is 100% white—except for the parts that are toned.  
CW, July 7, 1997, p. 45.

The "Full of Sound and Fury, Signifying Nothing" award goes to New World Rarities, Ltd., for offering assorted almost uncirculated Morgans with the dangling catch line: "Mint state coins are now over three thousand dollars!"  
NN, October 21, 1997, p. 47.

The "Limits of the Unlimited Upside" award goes to double winner Jay Parrino, who trumpets "the biggest innovation in rare coin sales since the introduction of third party grading. Liquidity revolutionizes the marketplace. The game has been changed forever." Judge's comment: All of this fuss is about Parrino's "The Mint repurchase program," which offers to repurchase, at any time, any coin bought from him for 90% of its Certified Coin Dealer Newsletter index value. For one who usually touts the "unlimited upside" of the coins he sells, this is a cautious guarantee indeed.  
CW, June 16, 1997, p. 56.

The "Give or Take a Century" award goes to triple winner Jay Parrino, for headlining his ad "Monsters from the eighteenth century," which ad offered large cents from 1802 and 1803, a half dime from 1801, and an 1802 dollar.  
NN, September 30, 1997, p. 21.

The "Fair is Foul and Foul is Fair" award goes to Paul J. Bosco, for his catalog of the Long Island Coin Expo official auction, in which he states, "We grade conservatively and we don't sell fakes." However, lots 282A-282L are boldly headlined "Bust Half Fakes." Judge's comment: Thanks to dealer Brad Karoleff for bringing this to our attention.  
CW, October 21, 1996, pp. 28-29.

The "What Becomes a Legend Least" award goes to quadruple winner Jay Parrino, for renaming the Eliasberg 1885 trade dollar the "world-famous Eliasberg/Parrino trade dollar."  
CW, May 19, 1997, p. 41.

The "Pardon, Your Freudian Slip Is Showing" award goes to double winner Kingswood Coin Auctions, for the description heading lot 361 in the Kingswood III auction: "Mint State Gold Commons (*sic*)."

*Kingswood III, September 24-25, 1997, p. 29.*

The "Not, However, For Lack of Trying" award goes to quintuple winner Jay Parrino, for hyping a 1910-D eagle as follows: "The English language lacks enough superlatives to describe this incredible important coin." Judge's comment: Elsewhere in the same ad, Mr. Parrino refers to a PAN-PAC fifty dollar round as "America's mightiest gold coin." As long as Mr. Parrino is in business, the English language will never be lacking for superlatives.

*CW, June 9, 1997, p. 52.*

The "Sorry, It Does Get Better Than This" award goes to double winner David Hall, for proclaiming, "every coin is gem-quality MS-65 or better and every coin is created by PCGS. It does not get any better than this!" Judge's comment: Does Mr. Hall really believe that 1946 P-D-S Walking Liberty Halves don't come any better than MS-65?

*CW, July 14, 1997, p. 49.*

The "Fortunately For Me, I Think Every Mercury Dime I See Is Attractive" award goes to Larry Whitlow, Ltd., for beginning his ad copy with: "I have been buying every Mercury dime I have seen for over two years..." and finishing it with: "We know you don't want unattractive coins and we don't either!"

*NN, October 28, 1997, p. 33.*

The "One Hundred Dollars Worth of Free Grading for Only Ninety-Nine Dollars" award goes to PCGS, which offers "One hundred dollars worth of free PCGS grading," to secure which one need only join the PCGS Collectors Club—for ninety-nine dollars per year.

*CW, September 29, 1997, p. 43.*

The "Most Unintentionally Accurate Statement of the Year" award goes to double winner PCGS, for headlining an ad, "At PCGS, one thing never changes ... your coins are the most important coins in the world!" Judge's comment: You will note that they did not mention grading nor grading standards as the "one thing [that] never changes" at PCGS!

*CW, August 18, 1997, p. 39.*

The "Move Over, Gilmor, Mickley, Stickney, Bushnell, Parmelee, Garrett, Brand, Eliasberg, Boyd, Norweb, and Pittman" award goes to sextuple winner Jay Parrino, who pictures twelve rarities from his inventory, modestly labeling each a "national treasure," then proclaiming, "Presented here is the most amazing group of classic American rarities ever assembled in the

history of American numismatics." Judge's comment: Presented here is the most amazing presumptuous overstatement in the history of American numismatics!

*NN, October 21, 1997, p. 15.*

The "Most Lyrical Way to Describe Corrosion" award goes to John Franklin, who pitches Eight Real Cobs salvaged from off the coast of South America thusly: "These Cobs were high grade when they made their fateful journey to the ocean floor. Today, they retain great detail while not denying their three-hundred-year odyssey." Judge's note: It might be more accurate to describe them as having gone through a three-hundred-year Iliad!

*CW, January 5, 1998, p. 17.*

The "Free—For Two Dollars" award goes to the Bay State Coin Show, for offering a free Indian cent—for paying a two-dollar admission charge.

*NN, October 21, 1997, p. 53.*

The "Incredible Shrinking Silver Certificate" award goes to double winner Mt. Vernon Coin Company, for selling U.S. one-dollar silver certificates with the comment: "A terrific buy on a quickly vanishing issue."

*CW, December 29, 1997, p. 21.*

The "We Can Only Hope It Will Also Be a Numismatic Last" award goes to the republics of Zambia and the Marshall Islands, for issuing the same coins (albeit the Zambian coin is "minted in a gleaming solid cupronickel" while the Marshall Islands coin is "minted prooflike, solid brass, as radiant as the golden sunset..."). Judge's comment: The "solid brass" of the Marshall Islands authorities was illustrated in 1997 when they refused to redeem a number of their past "legal tender" issues.

*Pamphlet issued by [www.unicover.com](http://www.unicover.com), 1997.*

The "Practically Pregnant" award goes to septuple winner Jay Parrino (an all-time record!), who qualifies his qualification in hawking a 1795 half dime. Parrino says it "is a coin of nearly unimagineable (*sic*) quality." Judge's aside: Quoting Han Solo, Mr. Parrino, "I can imagine quite a bit." Further, Mr. Parrino goes on to say, "though perhaps not fully struck, ... it is nearly without peer." Judge's comment: One might hesitate to pay \$65,000 for a coin that may or may not be fully struck, may or may not have a peer, and may or may not be of unimaginable quality! Thanks to NBS member Peter Mosiondz, Jr., for bringing this gem to our attention.

*NN, January 6, 1998, p. 13.*

Now we turn to numismatic bloopers for the year:



The "Not Quite Professor Moriarity" award goes to the hapless thug who attempted to burgle an Ocean City, New Jersey coin shop in January of 1997. Police responding to the shop's alarm found the perpetrator passed out on the floor from being "badly intoxicated," and bleeding from cuts sustained during his clumsy break-in effort. He was charged with burglary and attempted theft, but surprisingly, not with criminal stupidity.

CW, February 3, 1997, p. 74.

The "Most Insightful Header of the Year" award has two worthy claimants. The first is the headline writer for *Numismatic News*, who stated, "Scarcity has significant impact on value." The second is the scribe for *Coin World*, who sagely observed: "Lincoln Cents Focus of LCS Bulletin." The initials "LCS," of course, stand for "Lincoln Cent Society."

NN, January 6, 1998, p. 6 & CW, November 3, 1997, p. 26.

The "Then How Can You Tell It Has Been Repaired?" award goes to the caption writer for *Numismatic News*, who stated, "An excellent reengraving job removed traces of the chopmark from the eagle's breast on the reverse of the Trade Dollar, right. This repair defies detection."

NN, September 23, 1997, p. 24.

The "It Helps to Read the Story" award goes to the *Coin World* headline writer, who penned, "Sealand 'Coins' are oil platform owners' fantasy." The article below the caption states that the "Principality of Sealand" is actually an abandoned World War II sea fort called Rough's Tower.

CW, January 5, 1998, p. 16.

Finally, two non-numismatic chuckles:

The "Let's Pray That It Is Heavily Insured" award goes to stealthmail@aol.com for urging recipients of this e-mail spam to "Explode your business now!"

Spam received July 10, 1997.

The "Clear Days on the Washington Scene" award goes to Senator Peter Domenici (R-NM), for these sentiments, taken verbatim from a speech: "Let me say first that I am not one of those privileged senators who has met Mother Teresa and been with her for any length of time, although I have met her once. But I believe that it is fair to say that even while I have not met her..."

Congressional Record, September 9, 1997.

That is it for the best of the worst in numismatic ads for this year. Be with us next year as we celebrate a full decade of the Shammies!



## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

I read Joel Orosz' most recent "Printer's Devil" with interest. Joel writes nicely, with an even style. Although I pride myself on being *au courant* with things internet-ish I confess I do not have a CD drive in my home computer. Consequently, I can't appreciate the pleasures of *The Riches of Coins* CD and must rely on Joel's review for my information about its contents.

Joel mentions an interview with Eric Newman, in which Newman talks about some of the highlights from his own collection. Joel mentions two of them, the 1792 gold Washington President piece and the 1861 Confederate half dollar. According to Joel's story, Newman claims that the former was Washington's own pocket piece and the latter may have been Jefferson Davis' own specimen. These are pretty impressive pedigrees, to say the least, but I'm afraid they cannot positively be substantiated.

The first owner of the gold 1792 Washington President piece I know of was Gustavus Myers. In 1855 he took it to the US Mint in Philadelphia to ask officials there if they knew anything about its origins. Mint officers could tell him nothing beyond their supposition that the piece had been made in Birmingham, England. The Mint did not tell Myers that the piece had once been Washington's. Myers learned nothing more about the piece. He later gave it to Colonel Mendes Cohen.

The earliest claim I know of that links the 1792 gold piece to Washington is in Edward Cogan's catalogue description of it for the Mendes Cohen sale (October 25, 1875), in which Cogan wrote that he thought it was "...most probably struck in compliment to General Washington...and that it was...possibly used as a pocket piece..." Cohen did not claim that the piece was Washington's own although his description was crafted to leave that impression with the reader. Cogan concluded by excusing what he had written about its link to Washington with these words "Be this as it may, it will be invaluable to any one collecting Washington Coins or Medals."

Crosby knew of the gold piece and mentioned it on page 356 of *The Early Coins of America* (1875). Crosby did not call it Washington's pocket piece, either. He simply stated his belief that it was part of a pattern proposal for a coinage contract, along with the silver and copper specimens known of the same type.

William S. Baker listed the gold piece in his *Medallic Portraits of Washington* (1885) and like Crosby before him, made no claim for its being more than what it appeared to be on its face, a unique and enigmatic coin struck from what Baker called experimental dies.

In 1890, when the piece was next catalogued for sale, the previously conjectural connection to Washington had begun to harden into fact. It was described in the Parmelee sale catalogue as "It is very probable that Washington had this pocket piece given him and the slight wear it shows would indicate its use as a pocket piece." This is a nice bit of tautology, of course, in which slight wear shows that a pocket piece is a pocket piece! The cataloguer's reasons for writing as he did is probably as much an attempt to make something enigmatic more understandable as it was an exercise in salesmanship.

H. P. Smith, himself, bought the coin for \$220, and after a span during which its whereabouts are untraceable, it was subsequently owned by Wayte Raymond, Colonel E. H. R. Green, B. G. Johnson, and most recently Eric Newman. By the time Newman wrote his apologia for the piece, in *Studies on Money in Early America*, (1976), what had begun as just a possibility for Ed Cogan in 1875 and a probability for Smith in 1890 became a century later a certainty, for Newman unhesitatingly titled his story "George Washington's Unique 1792 Pattern in Gold".

Washington's well publicized refusal to allow his portrait to appear on the obverse of the national coinage in 1792 suggests to me that the last thing he would have carried around in his pocket would have been a gold pattern coin with his portrait on it. The unique gold 1792 Washing-

ton piece is important enough in its own right not to need enhancement by what appears to be an unsupportable pedigree.

Four examples of the 1861 Confederate half dollar are known. Newman's specimen has been pedigreed as follows: New Orleans Mint; Dr. E. Ames of New Orleans; his son; the Ames family; unknown intermediaries; a Rondout, New York tailor named Marks Jacobs, who is said to have found the coin in a roll of federal half dollars and could not spend it since local merchants refused it as fake; Tom Elder, to whom Jacobs showed the coin in 1910 and sold it in 1912; H. O. Granberg; William Woodin; Waldo Newcomer; Colonel Green; B. G. Johnson; Eric Newman nearly 40 years ago. In the August, 1946 issue of *The Numismatist* what would later become Newman's coin was offered on a "Price on Request" basis by the Celina Coin Company (Ted and Carl Brandts. Celina handled some of the rarest coins of them all in the middle 1940s, including an 1884 and 1885 trade dollar, the unique 1870-S \$3, and an Unc.1796 With Pole half cent, to name just some. Celina is said to have gotten these rarities from B. G. Johnson). Newman showed the coin publicly at the April, 1957 meeting of the Central States Numismatic Convention. To the best of my knowledge, Newman's statement on the *Riches of Coins* CD that his coin may have been Jefferson Davis' own is the first time such a claim has ever been made for it. The reconstructed pedigree for Newman's coin leaves no room for its ownership by Jefferson Davis. I would like to know on what basis Newman could claim the Davis pedigree for

his coin.

An entirely different specimen of the 1861 Confederate half dollar has been pedigreed as Jefferson Davis' own coin, the only one that, by process of elimination, could have been sent to the CSA government in Richmond. This is the piece given by the New Orleans Mint to CSA Secretary of the Treasury C. G. Memminger. Memminger presented it to Davis, from whom it was stolen by Union soldiers just before Davis was transferred to Fortress Monroe in May, 1865 (Davis' Sabine Pass medal was also stolen at the same time). Between 1865 and 1951 the coin was owned by various men, including one named Mark Bream of Cashtown, PA, who had owned it in 1936 and who showed it that year to friends during the Washington Numismatic Society's meeting at Gettysburg. Its existence was published to the collecting world in the January, 1951 issue of *The Numismatist*. In 1961 it was bought at a coin show by the present owner. This coin is available for sale.

Of the two other 1861 CSA half dollars known, one was kept by the chief coiner of the New Orleans Mint and is now at the ANS and the other was presented to Professor Riddle (in 1879 the name was given as Biddle) of New Orleans and is owned by a New England collector. Neither of them was presented to or owned by Jefferson Davis.

It seems to me that neither of the pedigrees Newman claimed for these two coins can stand.

MIKE HODDER

## THE ASYLUM

### 1999 PUBLICATION SCHEDULE

Issue No. 1	March 1999	Submission Deadline: December 1
Issue No. 2	June 1999	Submission Deadline: March 1
Issue No. 3	September 1999	Submission Deadline: June 1
Issue No. 4	December 1999	Submission Deadline: September 1

## The Whitman Numismatic Journal

Bob Christie

In his description of this magazine as lot 170 of his 55th sale on June 19, 1993, George Kolbe wrote the following:

An important, if largely unappreciated and nowadays little known source of numismatic information on a wide variety of topics. Articles of American interest include an update by Eric Newman on "The Fantastic 1804 Dollar," Walter Breen on the Billon Sous Marques of Canada, Richard Kenney on early American diesinkers and medallists, Lynn Glaser on three unique Massachusetts coppers, Breen on American coin type names, etc.

This lot, purchased by me, is how I became acquainted with this 7 ½ inch tall magazine. Issued by the Whitman Publishing Company of Racine, Wisconsin from January, 1964 to December 1968 and edited throughout its five-year existence by R. S. Yeoman, Ken Bressett, and Neil Shafer, I consider this magazine to be one of the "stars" of my library. I was particularly impressed by the diversity of articles. Whether your interest is United States coins, tokens, world coins, Canadian or Mexican numismatics, there are articles of interest for everyone. In a January 27, 1998 letter to me, Ken Bressett mentioned that he, Neil Shafer, and Lawrence Block (who was an editor from October, 1964 to January, 1966), wrote most of the articles. They used a variety of names to make it look like a larger staff.

The cover of each issue is graced with an illustration of a different coin or token, most of which I'd never seen before. Thankfully, they are identified in the *Journal Jottings* section inside the front cover. This section didn't begin until the February, 1965 issue. Unfortunately, most cover coins from 1964 aren't identified. Just seeing each cover coin caused me to at least want to learn more about it if not to begin a collection of the coins of the country represented. It makes me wonder how many collections may have been started by other readers of this magazine with similar inclinations. The September, 1965 cover coin is described in *Journal Jottings* as "This hunk of misshapen metal is a specimen of Celtic Ring Money of the sort current in Ireland long before St. Patrick drove the snakes from the Green Isle." An accurate description. It's hard to believe this coiled snakelike piece of metal was used as money. The November, 1965 cover coin, an 1803 Pietak of Russia, was included in Robert W. Julian's article *Copper Coinage of Imperial Russia, 1700-1916* in the same issue.

### LIGHT FROM MANY LAMPS

Of interest to numismatic bibliophiles is Ken Bressett's reviews of books from the period appearing under the above byline. It ran as a series through-



out the five years of publication. It would be impossible as well as boring to list every book reviewed, so I have listed ten of the most obscure (at least to me) titles:

1. *Catalog of German War Tokens* by Robert A. Lamb, published by the author, 1963, 141 illustrated pages.
2. *The Coins of Guatemala 1733-1963*, by Charles M. Robinson III, published by the author, San Berido, Texas, January 1964, 31 pages, large octavo, illustrated.
3. *United States Major and Minor Mint Error Types*, by Delmas Ford, published by the author, Del City, Oklahoma, 1964, 52 pages, illustrated.
4. *Coins of Jersey and Guernsey*, by Alcedo Almanzar, published by the author at 741 Milam Building, San Antonio, Texas, 19 pages, illustrated, softcover. [If you, like me, never heard of Guernsey and Jersey, Ken's review states that they are two British Channel Islands. The author covered all coinage issues from their earliest (1830 and 1841 respectively)].
5. *The Silver Coinage of Imperial Russia 1682 to 1917* by H. M. Severin, printed in Switzerland and published jointly by Münzen und Medaillen of Basel, Jacques Schulman of Amsterdam and Spink & Son, Ltd., of London, 1965, 276 pages, 48 plates.
6. *The History of Coins of Honduras* by Paul J. Huben II, Route 2, Box 251A, Marion, Alabama. Published privately by the author, 1965, large octavo, 34 pages.
7. *Trade Tokens of Saskatchewan* by C. C. Tannahill, Canadian Numismatic Research Society, 1966. Softcover.
8. *The Coinage of Cuba 1870 to Date* by Thomas Lismore, published by Roy Renderer, 5138 Biscayne Boulevard, Miami, Florida, 1966. Softcover, 147 pages, illustrated.
9. *Standard Catalogue, Hong Kong Coins and Currency Notes-British Trade Dollars* by Antonio B. de Sausa. Distributed by R. E. de Sausa, De Sausa's Auction Rooms Ltd., 7577 Wundham St., Hong Kong, 1967. Softcover, 47 pages, illustrated.
10. *Catalogue of Belgium Coins as from 1832 till 1964* by Frans Morin, Boom, Belgium, 1964. Softcover, 87 pages, illustrated.

#### A FOND FAREWELL

In the December, 1968 issue, the reason for discontinuing the magazine was given in the *Journal Jottings* section as follows:

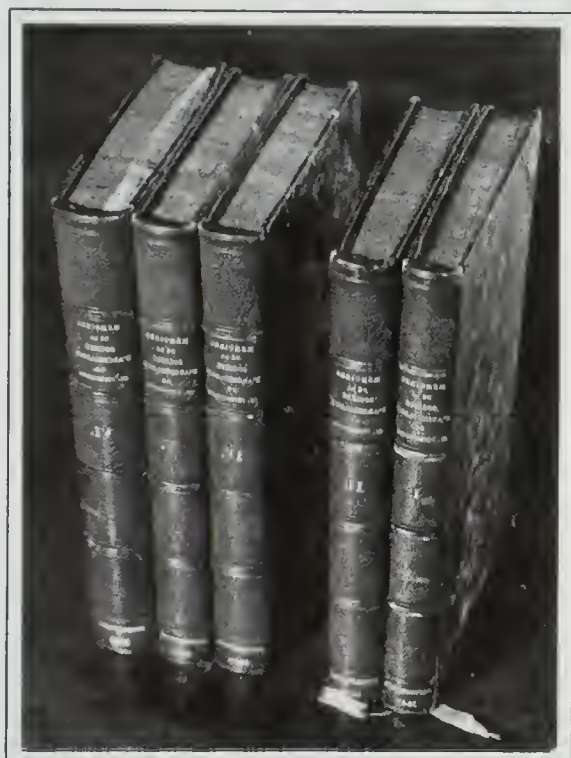
Our desire to abandon this enjoyable project lies in the fact that we believe our publishing program can be better projected toward the production of books and other hobby items for collectors. In the future, our full facilities will be used in that direction.

It's sad that such a quality should come to an end. It is obvious that the editors loved what they were doing and were dedicated to putting *fun* into this great hobby of ours. In my opinion, this is one of the most underrated numismatic magazines.

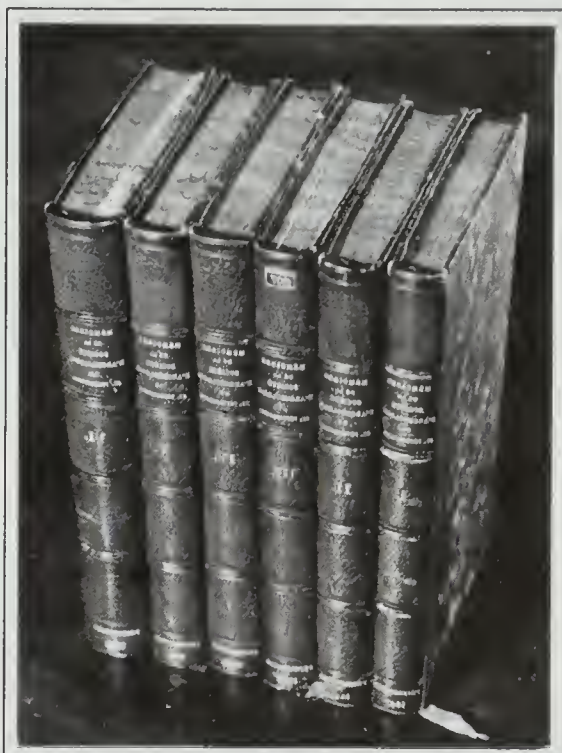
I hope my fellow bibliomaniacs have the opportunity to purchase at least a partial set of the *Whitman Numismatic Journal* some day to prove me right.



## New York Auction Trumps Montel Show on NBC V. Arefiev



BEFORE



AFTER

If you are a Jerry Springer fan on NBC, then you probably would not be aware that from time to time Montel Williams on the same network has brought happily together brothers and sisters or other family members who were separated early in their lives and may not have seen or heard from each other in decades.

The same, but far less frequently and with a more select audience, may also happen with books.

In November, 1981, through John Drury, I acquired at the Sotheby Landry numismatic literature auction in London, five volumes bound in red morocco of *Mémoires de la Société d'Archéologie et de Numismatique...*, published in St. Petersburg between 1847 and 1852. A stamp on the inside leaf indicated it was from the library of C. Naryshkin, a descendent from a Russian boyar family related to the Romanoffs (Peter the Great's mother was Naryshkina).

The *Mémoires* are widely considered to be Russia's first numismatic periodical. Printed in editions of approximately 300 copies, its publication was subsidized by the Crown and its chief editor was baron B. von Köhne — a prolific writer and the former editor and publisher of *Zeitschrift für Münz-, Siegel-, und Wappenkunde*, Berlin, 1841-1846.

This very attractive and enviably pedigreed set had, however, a major flaw — it lacked volume three. Several options were considered to fill this regrettable void, including xerox, microfilm, or finding the missing volume in, preferably, original, unbound condition.

A few years ago the G. F. Kolbe firm did complete my set with a workable, already bound substitute. However, the ultimate ecstasy of reunification of the missing third volume with the rest of the set did not occur until December 6th, 1997 at the sixteenth annual George Frederick Kolbe Numismatic Literature Auction in New York. In this sale, 16 years after the 1981 London acquisition of five volumes of *Mémoires*, the errant volume was offered as lot 271, THE missing third volume from the Naryshkin set — torn from it who knows when and by what force!

Yes, Montel, does from time to time reunite people, but his track record for doing the same for books, in comparison to George Kolbe, is, in my book, far behind!

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### ¡Show and Tell! Wayne K. Homren

This occasional column provides a forum for NBS members to share their latest finds with their fellow numismatic bibliophiles. Readers are invited to send contributions for future issues. Only a few sentences are required, so it won't take much of your time. Just jot down your ideas and mail them to me at 1810 Antietam Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15206 (or email to [whomren@coinlibrary.com](mailto:whomren@coinlibrary.com)). I'll handle the rest.

This column covers a hodgepodge of material on several areas of numismatics.

#### A DELUXE BEISTLE

One of my favorite purchases of recent weeks is a nice copy of the Deluxe Beistle (M. L. Beistle, *A Register of Half Dollar Varieties and Sub-Varieties*, 1929). Number 122 of 135 copies produced, the book is covered in limp brown leather with gilt edges. It is interleaved, and includes seven photo-

graphic plates. The frontispiece portrait of the author is autographed in ink. In his foreword, Beistle acknowledges E. H. R. Green, who lent his Half Dollar collection to be photographed for the book.

Local bibliophile John Burns reminded me that a number of Beistle books found their way into the Col. Green estate. Checking my library I pulled out my handpriced copy of the Nov 9-10, 1943 Parke-Bernet Galleries sale of the library of Col. E. H. R. Green. Lot descriptions and prices realized follow:

<u>LOT NO.</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>HAMMER PRICE</u>
327	NUMISMATICS. M.L. Beistle. A Register of Half Dollar Varieties and Sub-Varieties. Illustrated. 8vo, original cloth. 25 copies. Shippensburg, 1929	\$17.00
327A	The same. 50 copies	\$5.00
327B	The same. 114 copies	\$22.50
328	NUMISMATICS. M.L. Beistle. A Register of Half Dollar Varieties and Sub-Varieties. Illustrated, Interleaved throughout. 8vo, original limp morocco, gilt edges. 25 copies. Shippensburg, 1929 EDITION DE LUXE. ONE OF 135 COPIES.	\$160.00
328A	The same. 25 copies	\$70.00
328B	The same. 25 copies	\$90.00
328C	The same. 25 copies	\$80.00

Two things are apparent from the listings. For one, it was probably Col. Green who financed the book's publication, since he had so many remaindered copies. Second, the demand for Deluxe editions was lower than expected, since over half of the issue was unsold fourteen years later.

A DELUXE PRUCHA?

Speaking of Deluxe volumes, here's one I wasn't aware of until recently. Most U. S. bibliophiles are familiar with the 1971 book *Indian Peace Medals in American History* by Francis Paul Prucha. The book has always been in demand and has been reprinted in softcover. Recently I purchased a duplicate copy of the original 1971 hardbound version and was surprised to find inside a special page bound at the front containing the following text: "This reference book / about United States Indian / PEACE MEDALS /



by the outstanding authority / on their role in U.S. history / accompanies a silver / MESCALERO APACHE TRIBE / PEACE MEDAL / bearing number \_\_\_\_ / issued by the Mescalero Apache Tribe / on the Centennial of the / Presidential Executive Order / establishing the / Mescalero Indian Reservation / May 29, 1973 / INDIAN TRIBAL SERIES / PHOENIX, ARIZONA." The number 224 is written in by hand.

Tipped in to the book is a letter on Indian Tribal Series stationery. The first paragraph reads: "This letter is to notify you that your Mescalero Apache Peace medal will be mailed from this office today. It will be sent by registered, first class mail and is insured for \$350.00." The letter goes on to state that several items will be shipped along with the medal, including a copy of the Prucha book. "The State Historical Society of Wisconsin published the first edition of one thousand copies. Three hundred fifty of these have been specially imprinted on the inside to join them permanently to the Mescalero Peace Medal. They are, moreover, autographed by Mr. Wendell Chino, President of the Mescalero Apache Tribe.

#### ELMER'S HISTORY OF NEW JERSEY CURRENCY

Another nice find is a set of unbound signatures comprising a pristine original copy of the 1869 book by Lucius Q. C. Elmer titled *History of the Early Settlement and Progress of Cumberland County, New Jersey; and of the Currency of this and the Adjoining Colonies*. From the Preface, "These sketches of the early history of Cumberland County were prepared a few years ago for the columns of a newspaper. Many of the facts detailed...came to the knowledge of the writer in the course of a somewhat long and protracted career as a lawyer... The chapter giving a history of the money of account and of circulation in this and the adjoining colonies, from their beginnings to a recent date, it is believed embraces facts not to be found in any of our histories, which were fast passing into oblivion, but which are too curious and instructive to be entirely lost."

Elmer notes that accounts in the state were generally kept in pounds, shillings, and pence until after 1799, when a law was passed requiring the use of the new dollar standard. "For several years, however, aged persons inquiring the price of an article in West Jersey or Philadelphia, required to be told the value in shillings and pence, they not being able to keep in mind the newly-created cents or their relative value. Even now, in New York, and East Jersey, where the eighth of a dollar, so long the common coin in use, corresponded with the shilling of account, it is common to state the price of articles, not above two or three dollars, in shillings, as for instance, ten shillings rather than a dollar and a quarter. So lately as 1820

some traders and tavern keepers in East Jersey kept their accounts in York currency." (p137)

#### SHERMAN, THE STATE BANK OF IOWA

The publications of universities and historical societies are often good sources for information on local numismatics. I recently acquired a copy of the July, 1901 issue of the *Annals of Iowa*, an historical quarterly published by the Historical Department of Iowa (Third Series, Vol V, No. 2), and one of the featured articles is *The State Bank of Iowa*, by Maj. Hoyt Sherman (p 93-116). The article describes the full history of the short-lived bank and has ten full-size illustrations of the bank's paper money (front and back of the \$1,2,3,5, and \$10 notes printed by the American Bank Note Company).

#### SNOWDEN'S STATEMENT REGARDING NATURALIZATION

My last column described an unusual non-numismatic item relating to Mint Director James Ross Snowden (The Cornplanter Memorial). As luck would have it, I stumbled across another Snowden item a few weeks later. This one is an eleven page pamphlet titled "Statement of James Ross Snowden, In Reference To The Naturalization of Aliens in the Supreme Court." Dated September 6th, 1869, it documents Snowden's indignant response to charges that he signed blank naturalization papers while serving as a Judge of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court.

#### REPRINT OF LOW'S MORELOS ARTICLE

I was pleased to recently discover yet another reprint of Lyman Low's treatise on the coinage of General Morelos (see my article in *The Asylum*, Fall, 1996). This blue, card-covered version was produced in 1990 by Barber & Fox, Ltd, of Washington state. For background information I was also pleased to find and purchase *Morelos of Mexico: Priest, Soldier, Statesman*, by Wilbert H. Timmons, 1963.

#### "IT'S ONLY MONEY!"

Just when you think you've seen it all, something pops up to prove otherwise. This fall I purchased a book on error coins that I hadn't known existed, and has somehow eluded me in the seventeen years I've been col-

lecting American numismatic literature. Written by Jess Bausher and Charles Dolan, M.D., *"It's Only Money!" (A Comedy of Errors)* was published in 1966. The well-illustrated 291-page hardcover book is a reference and price guide for major mint errors. The late Ken Lowe of The Money Tree noted that a copy was sold in one of their mail bid sales a few years ago, but that he had never seen the book before or since. No mention is made of the number of copies printed, but it's hard to believe such a recently published book could be so hard to find. Perhaps Asylum readers could help shed some light on the situation: who else has one of these? (*Author's note: in the time since this was written, copies of the book have been spotted in at least two numismatic literature dealer's auctions*)

#### BOLENDER'S COMMENTS ON CLAPP'S LARGE CENT BOOK

While reviewing a group of auction catalogs I found this item printed on the last page of M. H. Bolender's 77th sale (August 16, 1932):

##### A New Book on Cents

"THE UNITED STATES CENTS OF THE YEARS 1798 AND 1799," by Mr. George H. Clapp, is now on hand, and can be furnished to my customers at \$7 per copy. This book is one of the finest ever published on cents, and should be in the hands of every collector of the large cent series. It is the result of nearly ten years' study by Mr. Clapp. There are 34 obverse dies and 34 reverse dies which, with various combinations, make 47 separate and distinct die-varieties of the 1798 cent, all of which are minutely described and pictured with the finest plates ever made. The price \$7 is less than half the actual cost of producing the book, taking no account whatever of the author's time or effort, which seemed to be a labor of love.

#### BOLENDER'S HOBBY

In the same group of catalogs was Bolender's 54th sale (November 29, 1929), where the last page contained this interesting note, reminiscent of paper money dealer Tom Denly's regular musings on his fishing expeditions:

##### A Coin Dealer's Hobby

Years ago, before I devoted my entire time to the numismatic business and was engaged in the educational field, I used to turn to coins for my recreation and hobby. Now handling coins is a business with me, and other hobbies must be sought. Hunting and fishing are important ones with me. My best day recently was a rattlesnake hunt in the secluded hills east of Galena, Ill., when I was successful in bagging nine rattlers, five of which I brought home alive. The largest one that I took alive was 3 ½ feet long and had ten rattles and a button. It was a beauty of the golden-diamond species.



## More on Charles C. Rood

Pete Smith

The Summer 1998, issue of *The Asylum* featured Joel Orosz' introduction to Charles Rood, America's "first full-time numismatic literature dealer." I had also written about Rood in the December 1997, issue of *The Numismatist*. I had enough information on Rood for my column but wanted to know more. I contacted Carl Herkowitz and asked him to search for information on Rood. I knew Carl was an accomplished researcher and lived in Detroit, Rood's home town. I had visited the Burton Historical collection in 1994 and suspected that information on Rood could be found there. Most of the biographical material reported here was discovered by Carl.

Charles Rood was born March 10, 1891, according to Social Security records [SSN: 380-22-1287]. Unfortunately, it cannot be confirmed if this Rood later became a numismatic literature dealer. This date of birth, however, fits with other known information. The 1920 Census for Wayne County, Michigan, showed Charles Rood as a single white male, 28 years of age, born in Michigan. He lived at 2164 McClellan with his mother Louisa, age 52, his brother Carleton, age 22, and a 66-year-old lodger.

Listings from Detroit city directories tell much about Rood. The 1906 directory lists Louisa B. Rood, widow of George, living at 45 Milwaukee Avenue. Charles appears first in the 1909 directory as a grinder living with his mother at 55 ½ Milwaukee. For the 1912 directory, Charles is listed as a machinist at 41 Baltimore Avenue, still living with his mother. That year, for the first time, his brother Carl is listed as a student living at the same address.

The occupation of Charles was listed as a telegraph operator in 1914, a clerk in 1916, and a machinist in 1918. In 1920 the family address is shown as 2164 McClellan. His occupation was later listed variously as a machinist or toolmaker. The 1930-31 city directory has an enigmatic listing with the name Emma associated with Charles. Emma Rood was listed at 3414 Hurlbut Avenue in the same directory. This could be his wife, although her name never again appears with his in the directories. This may have been a brief marriage or an error in the directory.

When I first saw Rood's catalogue and the notation, "Established 1930," I assumed it was published in 1931 or later. The Money Tree mail bid sale of June 24, 1995, indicated 1931 for the date. However, the text referred to the previous volume of *The Numismatist* as having 860 pages. Since I did not have those issues, I sent an e-mail to Wayne Homren who confirmed that 860 pages were published in the 1929 volume. Although the catalog may have been published in 1931, that text was apparently written in 1930.

In *The Numismatist* article, I mentioned a collection of letters from Rood that had been preserved by Walter Nichols. They are fragmentary and one-sided, including Rood's letters but not Nichols' responses. Most letters are typed with occasional words emphasized in red ink. (Comment for young people who have never seen a manual typewriter: Some had a ribbon with black ink on top and red on the bottom). These letters provide no biographical material but offer a fascinating insight into Rood's limited success in the literature business.

In a June 25, 1931, letter to Nichols, Rood offered Daniel W. Valentine's *Fractional Currency of the United States* 1924 deluxe edition at \$3.50 and commented, "Valentine's book [is] absolutely perfect, brand new and from my own private library and up to this time Not for Sale, the only other copy I had having been sold long ago...I note your reference to the quantity of auction catalogs and back numbers of Mehl's and Numismatist you have for disposal. The auction catalogs are almost unsaleable and the market is crowded with them, my stock consisting of some three hundred different sales with as many as twenty copies of some of them." More recent dealers can identify with Rood's overstock of slow moving items.

In the correspondence that followed, Rood requested that Nichols send some duplicate material. Rood's letter of August 31, 1931, stated, "I am preparing my stock for the fall and winter trade and am also working on a new catalog and amongst the various lots that have been offered to me it is likely that there will be considerable material that I can add to one or the other." I have not found any confirmation that Rood produced a second catalog.

Nichols offered a group of catalogs but Rood thought the asking price was too high (10/10/31): "I have never paid twenty cents a copy for back numbers; it simply cannot be done. I have in stock at present something like 12,000 back numbers and they cost me between five and six cents per copy. ... I do not know of a single person besides myself who is dealing in this particular variety of literature and I am commencing to understand why... In Norman Shultz's coming sale I have listed something like fifty or sixty lots of literature which includes some priced catalogs of the more prominent sales; he is the only dealer who would accept them—along with several good standard books—and he would not have done so but the proceeds are to be credited to my account and taken out in trade."

Rood received a package from Nichols and agreed to pay \$30, although he was unable to pay immediately (11/14/31): "I am sorry that my failure to remit as promptly as promised has inconvenienced you and on account of an unavoidable illness that I have not yet recovered from I am going to ask you to favor me with just a little more time in which to attend to it. My income from my literature is the only income I have and it is very modest indeed - with more 'buys' than sales."

The city directory for 1931-2 did not indicate an occupation for Rood. It can be assumed that he lost his job as a toolmaker and was selling literature as a necessity.

Rood continued to put off payment (12/11/31): "Yours' of the 9th just received and as soon as a check for \$35.50 which I have coming from the Ohio State Arch. & Historical Society appears, you shall have it. They are one of my very best patrons but are apt to be a little slow at times due to the 'red tape' usually attendant to Museum transactions."

Nichols went after Rood through third parties in his attempt to collect on the debt. He received a letter from Detroit paper money collector Albert Grinnell with a comment about Rood (1/14/32): "I have met Mr. Rood but have never done much business with him. Have heard, however, through several different sources that he is a very slow pay." Nichols also received a response from Clifton A. Temple, Secretary of the Detroit Coin Club (1/16/32): "Regarding Mr. Charles C. Rood, I would suggest that you immediately write to Mr. Duffield, the editor of the Numismatist, and give him all the facts. Mr. Duffield requests all members of the A.N.A. to report to him any offers to dispose of back numbers of the Numismatist as fraud has been practiced in several transactions. The members of the Detroit Coin Club have previously been warned of Mr. Rood and I will read your letter at the next meeting."

Orangeville, Illinois, dealer M.H. Bolender responded (1/23/32): "Just kiss your \$30 good-bye; it is forever gone. Rood is a bad egg, one of the worst kind of crooks. He had no business using my name as a reference, as I certainly could never recommend him, and he knows it. He has owed me over \$100.00 for two years." Frank Duffield responded from Baltimore (1/23/32): "Regarding the party you mention in your letter of the 20th, I am afraid you will not get the money he owes you. You are one of several of his victims. Within the last 18 months I have had similar reports from a number of men, and I don't know how many he has victimized who have not reported to me."

Salt Lake City dealer Norman Schultz wrote (1/25/32): "I am sorry to say that he owes me money. He owed me \$90. for some coins sent to him two years ago." Sydney Noe, Secretary for the American Numismatic Society wrote (1/27/32): "It is pretty difficult to sell anything at the present day and that is the only justification I can suggest in defense of Mr. Rood. I am very sorry to hear of the difficulties into which he has got himself because there is room in this country for someone who will deal in numismatic literature." Nichols also heard from Herbert A. Brand of Cincinnati (7/26/32): "I am also an unfortunate victim of this man to the extent of some \$300.00 to \$400.00."

Nichols contacted the Merchants Credit Bureau in Detroit and they agreed to represent Nichols for a third of any funds recovered. They re-



ported (2/2/32): "Debtor is unemployed at present and there is no chance for collection until he secures a position." Nichols also contacted the Post Office Department, but after several exchanges of correspondence, the Post Office chose not to take any action against Rood.

A gap in correspondence was broken with Rood's letter of November 6, 1933. The tone of the letter indicates that they must have settled their differences. "Following is a list of choice books which I recently acquired...all are in fine to new condition and as I no longer deal in anything but the best in finest condition you may be sure they are all desirable:

Sandham, Alfred, 'Coins, Tokens, and Medals of Canada' 1859. This one includes the supplement @ \$4.00.

Davis, Andrew McFarland, 'Tracts relating to the Currency of Mass. Bay' 1902. New \$4.00.

Pye, Chas. 'Provincial Copper Coins or Tokens' 1796. In fine condition with new half leather binding. Rare and Choice 5.00.

Bushnell, Chas. I. 'Tradesmens & Political Tokens' 1858. An extremely rare book in choice condition. 4 plates @ 7.00.

Frossard 'U.S. Cents and Half Cents' 1878. No better book on this series. 7.50.

Hickcox. 'American Coinage' 1858. I tried for two years to locate a copy of this book to fill a want list and after I finally secured this copy - just recently - the party had changed their mind. 7.50.

You might wonder how I can afford all these rare and expensive books. All of them were obtained from auction dealers whom I had a credit coming for material I was obliged to sell to keep going."

Rood concluded his letter, "You are probably aware that you were not the only one to get the impression that 'he had been gypped by a miserable & conscienceless crook.' Nearly all of my debts are paid with interest of one kind or another and several that I owed have cooperated with me in getting squared around. In every case I have had no difficulty (so far) in getting a receipt that I may be called upon to produce some time in justice to myself or to settle a controversy with some one who still insists that I am dishonest and have not paid my debts. Every coin clud [sic] has it's busy-bodies, Detroit being no exception - although I have several friends in this club." The misspelling of club is one of very few spelling or typographical errors seen in the correspondence.

Rood explained some of his difficulties in his letter of January 8, 1934. "Your letters have been extremely agreeable and pleasant and have certainly had a good effect on my determination to get squared up and stay that way."

"As for Mr. Brand's worries that some of the material you obtained might be his let me assure you that none of his Numismatists were in any such choice condition as the new ones you got (which were all purchased from

the duplicates of the A.N.S.). I'll tell you the Brand story some time; there are two sides to it. Incidentally, after I had purchased his stuff with a down payment of \$50.00 and the balance on contract he came down to Detroit right from a drunken party in Cincinnati which broke up at 2 a.m. (by his own admission) and apparently he spent the rest of the night driving here. I was just a few days late with my second payment and had wired him to reassure him that I would have it in a few days and not to be alarmed."

"He was very offensive, would not listen to any excuses and although I had him spend the night at my house rather than go to a hotel, wanted me to pay for his trip here and informed me that he had written to Duffield and quite a few others and that I would not be permitted to advertise in 'Numismatist.' In other words Brand not only made it almost impossible for me to do business but he made it almost impossible for me to pay him."

"Hesslein was responsible for my inability to meet the payment at the time agreed. He requested me to ship him practically all of Brands' material and then tried to beat me out of it, and I was depending on that transaction to make Brand's payment. Hesslein had me just about at the verge of a nervous breakdown and it was necessary to get the Boston authorities after him before I could get any satisfaction out of him and it ended in all the stuff coming back but two books which he paid for."

Rood's letter of November 6, 1934, stated, "Your nice letter of recent date at hand and after looking into the inquiries you make relative to back numbers of 'Numismatist' required I find that I can supply complete volumes of the very scarce years 1895, 1896, 1897, 1898, 1899, 1900, 1901, 1902 and 1904 at \$3.50 per volume delivered. ... Recently sold 1,246 copies of 'Numismatist' to a dealer and this disposes of just about all the back numbers I have at present." With this offer, Rood was acting as a middleman on the deal.

In his article, Joel Orosz comments on Rood's offer of *The Numismatist* of 1894-1899 at \$4.00 per volume and issues of 1900-1910 at \$5.00 per volume. Orosz questioned the price relative to rarity. Another possibility is that the 1900-1910 issues were larger and better illustrated. Perhaps in 1930, content was considered more important than rarity. Another possibility is that the volumes from 1900-1910 were still held by current members while earlier editions were starting to emerge on the secondary market from collectors who were disposing of their holdings.

Rood showed a true affection for the literature although perhaps a lack of knowledge. "The finest and most remarkable book I have ever owned devoted to numismatics is my catalog of the Lord Pembroke Collection of Greek and Roman coins, 1746. The huge and elaborate volume is nearly three inches in thickness, bound in the finest of seal grain padded leather with ribbed back and gold lettering, has over three hundred copper engraved plates, gilt edged pages and in perfect condition inside and out. It

was evidently made to order complete to illustrate what must have been one of the finest private collections extant and probably but one copy of the book was made and printed, for His Lordship's private use and display."

Books from that era were not issued in standard binding but were bound at the discretion of the owners. Although each leather bound copy of the Pembroke catalog might have a unique binding, Rood greatly overstated the rarity of his favorite book.

In a letter dated December 4, 1933, Rood commented, "Almost forgot to tell you to send your reply to this letter to me, care of Frank Hadley, 112 John R. Street, Detroit as I will be occupying his office for several days during the absence of Mr. Hadley, the tenant and all my other mail comes to my residence."

The last (known) letter from Rood to Nichols was dated May 3, 1938. "I have often wondered how things were going with you. They are pretty bad here and I have been obliged to part with a number of my choicest items at big losses. One of my best now remaining is an unusually fine copy of Crosby's 'Early Coins of America,' 1875 (only edition that I know of) just about perfect, like new. I purchased this from Elder's sale of April 5, 6 and 7th, 1934 for \$38.00 (his comm. included). It was lot #2550 ... Look it up if you have the catalog or price list."

"I've hung on to it to the last. At the present time it is in the safe of Frank E. Hadley (stamp & coin dealer here) who loaned me \$18 on it. It has never even been used and has been carefully wrapped with the exception of the one time I unwrapped it to show Mr. Hadley. I never offered it for sale locally."

"I now offer it for \$22.00 for immediate acceptance if you can use it, to be shipped either Express or P.P. Collect. I lose just \$16.00 and salvage just \$4.00 after paying Mr. Hadley his \$18.00."

Rood worked hard to make a deal. Several letters may have resulted in a \$5.00 sale. Parts of his correspondence relate to uncirculated and proof gold coins offered at near bullion rate. It appears that by 1938, both his collection and library had been broken up and sold, often at a loss.

City directory listings for the period of the 1930's may be the most interesting since these were the years when Rood was also in the business of selling numismatic literature. He was listed as a toolmaker in 1930-31 and again in 1932-33, a tool operator with Joseph Lamb Company in 1934-35, an automobile mechanic in 1937 and a toolmaker in 1938-39.

I have an observation that may or may not be relevant. Most of Rood's letters through 1931 were typed. Those from 1932 are written by hand. Letters after January 1933, are again typed. The use of red for highlights begins early in 1934. The inconsistency suggests he may have had access to a typewriter only through his place of employment or through Hadley. If



Rood had access to Hadley's office, he may have also sold some of his collection and library through Hadley. Perhaps he worked there part time in exchange for favors or to pay off previous purchases..

Some may interpret the Rood correspondence and consider him a con artist attempting to pay for his last deal with the proceeds from his next. I feel his financial difficulties must be considered in context with the times. For anyone who lost their job in the Depression, it was tough to get by. I believe Rood tried to turn his hobby into a business at a time when it was obviously very difficult to get many buyers interested in numismatic literature. He bought a large stock with the hope of selling at a profit and ended up selling the choicest items from his private collection.

The last listing that Carl found for Charles was in 1941. He was a grinder working for Troy Tool & Gauge Company and still living with his mother. After 1941, there is a gap in the directories, and Charles and Louisa do not appear again.

Brother Carl R. Rood married Irene and took up residence at 3502 Berwick Avenue. The 1954 city directory shows Carl, a repairman for Detroit Transmission, living at his mother's house at 2164 McClellan. Later he is at that address with Louis Rood, probably his son.

The Charles Rood found in Social Security records died in May 1969 in New York City. There is more to his story yet to be told. A sharp researcher could probably find records in New York City related to his later years there including full date of death and an obituary.

A search of Detroit public records might turn up confirmation of his marriage. I found about a dozen Rood's in current Detroit phone directories. Perhaps one is a descendent of Charles or Carl and could provide family information.

The Rood fixed price list was listed and illustrated in Remy Bourne's 1989 reference *Fixed Price Lists & Prices Paid For Lists of United States Coin Dealers 1930-39*. I reviewed the material prior to publication, and if I saw the Rood catalog, it left no lasting impression. It was Remy who showed me the catalog in 1997 and suggested Rood as a topic for my column in *The Numismatist*.

How rare is the Rood literature price list? I recall that Ken Lowe told me that The Money Tree had handled three copies. Remy Bourne and George Kolbe have each handled one. The ANA library has one. A Michigan collector told me during the ANA Convention in Portland that he had one that had not come from the dealers mentioned. As a previously unappreciated item, other examples may have passed without notice. Because of interest generated by recent publications, demand exceeds supply.

What is Rood's legacy? For now he remains the first to issue a catalog devoted exclusively to numismatic literature. Although it may have briefly been his only source of income, the correspondence confirms that it did

not provide a decent living. It also appears that he acquired duplicates originally while building his library rather than intentionally for resale. After he started selling his duplicates, he was soon forced to sell his collection.

I see Rood, not as a pioneer, but as a missing link. He acquired, preserved and disseminated literature at a time when no one else stepped forward to provide that service.

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George Marion Klein of Vicksburg, Mississippi  
My Great-Grandfather  
J. H. McInnis

G. M. Klein was born in Vicksburg on 5 July 1844, the first child (of 10) of John Alexander and Elizabeth Bartley (Day) Klein. In pre-Civil War days, the Kleins were very wealthy and had a "town house," *Cedar Grove*, just south of Vicksburg with large grounds overlooking the Mississippi River; in addition, they owned a plantation, *Ball Ground*, north of Vicksburg along the Yazoo River. John Alexander Klein had come to Vicksburg from Virginia as a jeweler but made a fortune in lumber and railroads. George enjoyed the benefits and privileges of wealth in his youth and survived service in the Confederate Army during the Civil War. The Kleins suffered financial losses as a result of the war but were not "wiped out" as so many southerners were. On 30 July 1868 George married Louise Harrison Balfour, the oldest child of Dr. William Thomas and Emma (Harrison) Balfour—Dr. Balfour being a well established and respected Vicksburg physician. Following the war, John Alexander and George Marion Klein remained prominent in Vicksburg, both being involved in various activities—most notably banking. John Alexander Klein retired from active participation in business due to ill health and died on 3 Feb 1884. Following his father's retirement, George Marion Klein assumed the Presidency of the Mississippi Valley Bank which failed due to a combination of circumstances. George made concerted efforts to make good on the bank's losses from his own funds and, it would appear, this is at least part of the reason why his coin collection was liquidated. George Marion Klein lived on for a number of years and died in Vicksburg on 22 Dec 1923.

*Editor's Note: Mr. McInnis would like to obtain the four auction sale catalogues of his Great-Grandfather's notable coin collection, issued by W. Elliot Woodward, 1888-1889.*

## Variants of the 1851 Roper Auction Sale Catalogue

P. Scott Rubin, NLG

The December 12th, 1998 George Frederick Kolbe sale of the Harry W. Bass, Jr. Numismatic Library, Part One, included as lot 266 the February 20th, 1851, M. Thomas and Sons sale of the Dr. Lewis Roper collection. This named and priced copy includes a one page addenda that has not been recorded before. It, however, is not the only noteworthy feature of this particular catalogue. The last printed page of the catalogue includes the following information printed at the bottom of page 24:

### M. Thomas & Sons,

Philada., February, 1851.

Auctioneers, 93 Walnut St.

This is not printed in all known copies of this catalogue. The Bass example was the auction room copy of the famous numismatist Charles I. Bushnell. The auction room copy of a lesser-known early American coin collector Richard W. Davids does not include this printed identification, nor do two other copies that this author has been able to locate. Both of these copies show the vertical line separating the lot descriptions from the Remarks section starting at about  $\frac{1}{2}$  an inch from the top of the page to about the same distance from the bottom of the page, even though the last printed lot is about two inches from the bottom of the page. On the Bushnell copy, and another copy in the Bass library, this line follows through part of the M. Thomas & Sons' printed ending. It comes just to the left of the letter S in Sons on the Bushnell example.

Why is this bit of trivia important? It appears to demonstrate that there were two printings of this catalogue before the sale took place. This is significant because, as Emmanuel Joseph Attinelli stated in the description of the 1851 Lewis Roper sale in his work *A Bibliography of American Numismatic Auction Catalogues 1828-1875*: "This is, it is believed, the first coin sale in this country, in which sufficient interest was manifested by numismatists to take note of the prices paid for coins, and who were the purchasers."

John W. Adams estimated in the 1976 Quarterman Publications, Inc. reprint of Mr. Attinelli's book that between 4 to 12 copies of the 1851 Roper sale survive. In the years since 1976 no hoard of this catalogue has appeared, and current estimates of surviving copies fall within this range.

It would appear that over thirty individuals were successful in winning lots at the Roper sale and one would guess that a larger number took part in it. This was four years before Augustus B. Sage would hold his first coin auction, seven years before Edward Cogan would conduct his famous large



cent sale, and nine years before W. Elliot Woodward catalogued his first numismatic auction.

The Roper sale took place in Philadelphia, the home town of Richard W. Davids. Charles I. Bushnell was from New York City. This may be important in establishing a reason for the two different printings. It is probable that Davids read about the upcoming Roper sale in the local newspaper. It also seems reasonable to assume that in 1851 Mr. Thomas did not realize the appeal his auction might have outside the city of Philadelphia. In 1851 there was virtually no prior experience that would have allowed M. Thomas & Sons to judge the interest a coin auction might engender.

The sale did indeed attract buyers outside the Philadelphia area and it should be noted that in the Davids and some other copies of the Roper sale, no city is mentioned. It thus seems reasonable that when out of town inquirers arrived at the Moses Thomas and Sons office, the firm tried to remedy this serious oversight by printing the relevant information on a prominent area of the catalogue. Since the title page was already full of information about the sale, the nearly blank area at the base of the last page was a likely alternative.

Greater demand for what is now known as the first United States coin auction where prices realized were recorded may have caused the auction house to advertise the sale in out of town publications. We do not know if Mr. Bushnell received his copy by mail or if he acquired it at the sale itself. What we do know is that, at least in the case of the Davids and Bushnell copies, not only were prices realized recorded but also the names of the buyers. This, as Attinelli notes, also was a first for an American coin sale.

In comparing the names in the two copies, with the help of George Kolbe, it was found that different spellings were recorded for different buyers. It would seem that although the individual buyers meet each other at the sale, they did not always hear or learn the correct name of those in attendance. This is proved by Bushnell recording lots bought by Davids under the name *David*, while in Davids' copy his name is correctly spelled. This does not mean the Davids copy was without error, Mickley, for example, is spelled *Micklen*.

How many copies of the 1851 Roper sale feature this added imprint? At present, only the two Bass catalogues are known to feature it.

Following is the pedigree of Bushnell's copy of the 1851 Roper Sale:

- 1) S.H. & H. Chapman sale of the Charles I. Bushnell Collection, June 20, 1882, lot 2937; 2) W. Elliot Woodward; 3) W. Elliot Woodward's 69th sale, October 13, 1884, lot 3310; 4) W. Elliot Woodward's 96th sale, August 20, 1888, lot 1852; 5) David Proskey; 6) Proskey Estate; 7) Abe Kosoff; 8) Dr. Ralph R. Ritzman; 9) Sylvester Colby Sale, August 8, 1968, lot 149 [catalogued as the 1851 Rooper (*sic*) Sale]; 10) Harry W. Bass, Jr.; 11) George Frederick Kolbe's December 12, 1998 sale, lot 266

## Between the Covers

Colonel Bill Murray, NLG

You can pick up information in the darndest places. Recently I read in a mystery (I call them my mental cathartics) about a bookseller cum burglar. Is that a euphemism? In this novel, much of the plot centers around a book – an “associated copy” – with which the protagonist, Bernie Rhodenbar, becomes embroiled.

Being a bibliomaniac, a fact my wife decries but endures, I was pleased to get this bit of bibliographical information from my reading and it sent me to my copy of *John Carter's ABC For Book Collectors*. There I found, “ASSOCIATION COPY - This term...is applied to a copy which once belonged to, or was annotated by, the author; or someone of interest in his own right...”

As we read the catalogs of our dealer members, it is evident that an association copy must have added value, or at least so the dealers believe, since notations of such associations find their way into the catalogs. Associated copies have more interest, and more value, than inscribed copies or presentation copies. A presentation copy is a “spontaneous gift” by the author while the inscribed copy usually is in response to the book owner’s request. An inscribed or presentation copy also may claim a premium, especially if the book itself is considered scarce or rare.

Scarce or rare - these, too, are interesting terms. If I’m selling to you, it’s rare. If you’re buying, it probably is not even scarce - something like coin transactions. NBS prexy, Michael Sullivan, in a recent communication stated, “...it doesn’t take a lot of books to be common. 1,000 copies of a Steven King novel would be a rare edition, but in numismatic literature, that’s common. 300 might be ‘scarce,’ 100 or less would be ‘rare,’ in my opinion.”

Michael went on to say, “I doubt there will be a shortage of opinions among our readership; what do you think?”

What do you think?

Carter’s take on rarity starts out, “Rarity is the salt in book-collecting. But if you take too much salt, the flavour of the dish is spoiled; and if you take it neat it will make you sick. Similarly, those book-collectors who exalt rarity above any other criterion tend to develop third-degree bibliomania, which is a painful and slightly ridiculous ailment.”

As for me, I’m going to look for more of bookseller-burglar Bernie Rhodenbar’s adventures.

## News From the Net

### Pete Smith

A list of Internet addresses for members was collected during the NBS meeting at the ANA convention in Portland in August. Other addresses were added as word of the list spread via word-of-mouth or whatever the equivalent is for Internet correspondence. A notice was posted on the Web on September 4, 1998.

NBS vice-president Wayne Homren started distributing news via a monitored newsletter. Distribution has generally been on Fridays and 12 reports were sent through the end of 1998. Wayne will accept new subscribers at whomren@coinlibrary.com.

Following are some of the items shared in the NBS Internet newsletter:

#### NBS WEB SITE

The Numismatic Bibliomania has a web site at [http://www.money.org/club\\_nbs.html](http://www.money.org/club_nbs.html). This site will be moved to a new host early in 1999.

#### PERSONAL NEWS

NBS vice president Wayne Homren announced the birth of his son, Christopher Knobel Homren, born on December 18, 1998. Pictures were soon posted on Wayne's Web site: <http://www.coinlibrary.com/personal/christopher.html>. Weight was 8 lb., 12 oz; length 21 inches.

#### PUBLICATION ANNOUNCEMENTS

Richard Doty announced publication of *The Soho Mint and the Industrialization of Money* available from the British Numismatic Society, Spink and other dealers.

Ronald Greene announced publication of R.C. Willey's *Dictionary of Canadian Numismatics* by the Canadian Numismatic Research Society. It is somewhat similar to Forrer's *Biographical Dictionary of Medalists* listing anyone who has designed, engraved or struck coins, tokens or medals in Canada. Information is available from Greene at [pdgreene@pinc.com](mailto:pdgreene@pinc.com).

Brad Karoleff announced a new book on U.S. Half Dimes by Russ Logan and John McClosky to be published next year. Ordering information is available at [Karoleffs4@aol.com](mailto:Karoleffs4@aol.com).

Achal Madhavan announced publication of *Ancient Indian Numismatics* by Shankar Goyal and *Ariana Antiqua: A Descriptive Account of the Antiquities and Coins of Afghanistan* by C. Masson. Information is available from [vedams@vedamsbooks.com](mailto:vedams@vedamsbooks.com).



Pete Smith announced publication of *Laws of the U. S. Congress Authorizing Medals* including text of more than 200 laws related to authorization of medals. Ordering information is available from Smith at [smith.pete@dorseylaw.com](mailto:smith.pete@dorseylaw.com).

#### RESEARCH HELP REQUESTED

Joel Orosz is looking for an example of Jeremiah Colburn's signature for comparison with a possible signature appearing in a large-paper Cogan catalog. Joel can be reached at [jjo@wkkf.org](mailto:jjo@wkkf.org).

Phil Ralls is gathering information on copies of Howard Newcomb's book *The United States Cents of the Years 1801-1802-1803*. He has gathered information on 24 known copies of the book. He asks that others contact him at [ralls@hsc.usc.edu](mailto:ralls@hsc.usc.edu).

Bob Cochran asked how many complete sets of *Paper Money* were known. He received several responses. Those sets reported include: 1) Joe Adamski; 2) Bob Cochran (unbound); 3) Bob Cochran (bound); 4) Missouri Numismatic Society library; 5) Tom O'Meara (bound); 6) Tom Sheehan; 7) SPMC Library; 8) Michael J. Sullivan

#### SALES ANNOUNCED

Dan Friedus announced that he had some literature for sale on eBay (the Internet auction service). Information was available at [freidus@wwnet.com](mailto:freidus@wwnet.com).

George Kolbe announced upcoming sales scheduled for December 12 and 15, 1998. The first is part I of the Harry W. Bass, Jr. library.

Money Tree announced their sale of October 30, 1998. David Sklow has joined the firm as cataloguer following the tragic early death of Ken Lowe. Firm partner Myron Xenos can be reached at [xenos@bright.net](mailto:xenos@bright.net).

Richard Stockley has a numismatic book list available on-line. The address is [stockley@total.net](mailto:stockley@total.net).

#### SPEAKERS ON NUMISMATIC LITERATURE

Joel Orosz spoke to the Chicago Coin Club in October on "Early U.S. Coin Collectors from before 1858" including John Christopher of New York City, The Reverend Andrew Eliot of Boston, Robert Gilmore, Jr. of Baltimore and Pierre Eugène Du Simitière of Philadelphia.

Michael Sullivan was scheduled to present his paper on counterfeit detection literature at the ANS 1998 Coinage of the Americas Conference November 7, 1998. This literature was the subject of Sullivan's first place exhibit at the ANA Convention in Portland. Sullivan also previewed his talk at the NBS meeting in Portland.

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2) **Castenholz and Sons Numismatic Booksellers:** *The Numismatic Messenger*. Pacific Palisades, California. Complete set: Vol. 1, No. 1 through Vol. 2, No. 11/12 (Jan. 1971 through Dec. 1972). 24 numbers in 23 issues. Octavo, card covers. A quality publication offering authoritative articles, coins for sale, and their specialty, new and second-hand books. We have sold these in the past for \$40-50. We have purchased the entire remaining hoard and can offer as new complete sets for \$30. We have a very few sets, in a single red cloth volume, priced at \$50. Prices include postage in the U.S.; outside the U.S. add \$5.

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